

Docket No. AUS920030796US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INCREASING PERSONABILITY OF
INSTANT MESSAGING WITH USER IMAGES**

A method, apparatus, and computer instructions for handling instant messages. In response to receiving an instant message, a determination is made as to whether a picture of a sender of the instant message is associated with the instant message, wherein the picture is located in a preexisting database of pictures. The picture with the message is displayed on a display in the data processing system, if the picture is associated with the message.